

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-12 and 16-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 12 are amended to recite "wherein the magnetic particles are at least one of iron powder, Ni-Zn ferrite powder, Mn-Zn ferrite powder, Cu-Zn ferrite powder, and magnetite powder"; claims 20-22 are amended for antecedent basis; and claim 13 is cancelled. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 12 can be found at, for example, at paragraph [0066] of the specification as filed. No new matter is added.

I. June 16 Telephone Conference

In a June 16, 2008 telephone conference, Examiner Grainger indicated that, while the Moro reference is no longer applied in the rejections, a new Office Action would not be mailed.

II. Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner is requested to consider the information submitted in the July 14, 2008 Information Disclosure Statement.

III. The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied References.

A. Tomono and Ozawa

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2 and 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,358,432 to Tomono et al. (Tomono) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0155548 to Ozawa et al. (Ozawa). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Regarding independent claim 1, the applied references do not disclose or render obvious (1) "the magnetic particles having a coercive force of no more than 50 oersteds"; and (2) "wherein the magnetic particles are at least one of iron powder, Ni-Zn ferrite powder, Mn-Zn ferrite powder, Cu-Zn ferrite powder, and magnetite powder".

Tomono discloses an inductor element 1 including a cylindrical core 2 supporting a coiled winding 3 (Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 21-25). The cylindrical core 2 is disclosed as comprising a ferrite powder dispersed in a resin (col. 2, lines 53-57). This material is suitable for a high frequency inductor (col. 2, lines 45-55).

Regarding independent claim 1, the Office Action acknowledges that Tomono fails to disclose the base material being a solidified hydraulic composition, and alleges that Ozawa cures this deficiency.

Ozawa discloses a hydraulic composition for binding magnetic particles to produce a magnet that exhibits excellent corrosion and heat resistance, and high strength (paragraph [0011]). The permanent magnet is formed from magnetic powder, preferably a rare earth element-hard magnetic powder, in a hydraulic composition that is cured (paragraph [0012]). The hydraulic composition is cured by letting the product stand at room temperature until matured (paragraph [0050]). The permanent magnet of Ozawa, however, has a magnetic force that is extremely strong, 7 kOe (kilo-Oersteds) or more (paragraph [0055]).

Regarding feature (1) quoted above, the applied references are silent as to a coercive force of no more than 50 Oersteds. The August 27, 2007 Office Action acknowledged that Tomono and Ozawa fail to disclose this feature and cited to the Moro reference as curing this deficiency. However, the April 15, 2008 Office Action no longer includes Moro in the rejection and does not otherwise allege that feature (1) is disclosed or would have been obvious. Thus, all the features are not alleged as disclosed.

Regarding feature (2) quoted above, Tomono fails to disclose this feature because Tomono discloses ferrite powders having the composition of $2\text{BaO} \cdot 2\text{CoO} \cdot 12\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ and $3\text{BaO} \cdot 2\text{CoO} \cdot 12\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ (col. 3, lines 36-41; Examples 1-2; Comparative Examples 1-3). Ozawa also fails to disclose the claimed compositions (see paragraphs [0019]-[0023]). Thus, the applied references fail to disclose the claimed magnetic particles.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

B. Narumiya and Ozawa

The Office Action rejects claims 12, 13 and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Japanese Patent Publication No. 64-86504¹ to Narumiya in view of Ozawa. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Regarding independent claim 12, the applied references failed to disclose (1) "the magnetic particles having a coercive force of no more than 50 oersteds"; and (2) "wherein the magnetic particles are at least one of iron powder, Ni-Zn ferrite powder, Mn-Zn ferrite powder, Cu-Zn ferrite powder, and magnetite powder".

Narumiya discloses dispersing magnetic powder in an organic binder to produce a magnetic shielding material (Abstract) which is rolled or compressed into a sheet as well as use of magnetic particles and resin used as a coating or paint (constitution). The magnetic particles of Narumiya are tabular in shape and the coating is used to improve shielding against magnetic fields parallel to the plane of the coating (constitution). Regarding independent claim 12, the Office Action admits that Narumiya fails to disclose a hydraulic composition, but alleges that Ozawa cures the deficiency.

Regarding feature (1) quoted above, the applied references are silent as to a coercive force of no more than 50 oersteds. The August 27, 2007 Office Action acknowledged that Narumiya and Ozawa fail to disclose this feature and cited to the Moro reference as curing this deficiency. However, the April 15, 2008 Office Action no longer includes Moro in the rejection and does not otherwise allege that feature (1) is disclosed. Thus, all the features are not alleged as disclosed.

¹ The Office Action identifies Narumiya as JP 1-86504, the number provided to the English translation. The Japanese original bears the number 64-86504.

Regarding feature (2) quoted above, both applied references fail to disclose any of the claimed magnetic particles.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. Conclusion.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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